

R8490-20F 19/8

Northeast-Midwest Report



Northeast-Midwest Institute
The Center for Regional Policy



The Northeast-Midwest Institute was formed in 1977 at the request of representatives and senators who wanted to ensure the future economic vitality of those states that historically have formed the nation's industrial heartland. The Institute works closely with the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition, a bipartisan group of nearly 200 representatives, and with the 36 senators who comprise the Northeast-Midwest Senate Coalition. In addition to elected officials, the Institute provides information and analysis to corporate, academic, and labor leaders who recognize the common problems facing their states and the fact that federal policies often create obstacles to regional economic growth. Institute staff work in five major issue areas: economic development, human resources, energy, natural resources, and trade.

The 1988 Drought:
Farm Conditions and Assistance
in the Northeast-Midwest Region

by

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July 6, 1988

This report examines livestock and general crop conditions in the Northeast-Midwest region and explains what steps the federal government is taking to assist distressed farmers. Sources for more information at the state and federal level also are provided.

Congress has formed a bipartisan Drought Task Force, co-chaired by Senator Leahy and Congressman de la Garza, and has held meetings with Agriculture Secretary Lyng. The Task Force is monitoring drought conditions and making recommendations to provide drought relief for farmers. The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, July 12, 9:30 am in 332 Russell. The Task Force's hotline is 224-2587.

The 1988 drought has jeopardized several crops and livestock in the Northeast and Midwest. States in the region hit hardest include Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan and Ohio. Obtaining adequate supplies of feed for livestock is an immediate problem for many farmers, while the crops most seriously affected in the region are corn, spring wheat, soybeans, oats and hay. Exact crop losses remain unknown until harvest time.

Livestock Conditions

The preeminent concern for many producers in the Midwest is feeding their livestock. The drought has reduced the supply of hay and other livestock feed, causing market prices to rise in recent weeks and forcing some farmers around the country to make the tough choice between shipping livestock to other regions or slaughtering them. Problems with shipping cattle, even for relatively short distances, include

- poorer quality meat due to bruises
- loss of fat on cows due to heat in shipping cars
- miscarriages
- long periods of adjustment to different grasses, which are oftentimes lower in nutrients.

Farmers in the region have not yet had to ship cattle to other areas for feed. If feed is not available, the only alternative is to slaughter cattle at reduced prices, which is perhaps the most difficult choice a farmer can make since it diminishes a herd's reproductive capacity, the bread and butter of a livestock farmer. Farmers who follow this route will pay higher prices next year as they restock their herds.

Feed and pasture conditions in most Midwest states are below normal (ranging from very poor to fair, as shown in Table 1). While there is adequate feed in the region as a whole, cows will not eat much in the heat of the drought. The availability of hay varies in the region; some counties have surplus hay to sell, while other counties are shipping hay in from outside the state. The Northeast in particular has an adequate supply for the immediate future, but it is not presently geared to sell and transport surplus hay. For the majority of the region, the first cut of hay was below normal and the second cut has been, where existent, far below normal.

Federal Assistance Programs for Livestock

Feed Assistance

Beginning this week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is surveying the percentage of feed that is coming from pasture and the available hay supplies. The USDA has two major programs to provide emergency feed assistance to certain livestock producers located in counties declared eligible for disaster assistance:

- Emergency Feed Assistance Program (EFAP) - Under this program, USDA is selling feed grain owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) at reduced rates (75 percent of the county loan rate) to farmers who have lost at least 40 percent of feed production due to a natural disaster such as a drought.
- Emergency Feed Program (EFP) - Producers who have lost 40 percent or more of their feed production because of a natural disaster also qualify for cost-sharing assistance by the CCC. The government will pay up to 50 percent of the cost of feed purchased by a producer to compensate for the lost feed production.

Note that these two programs are available only to those producers who attempted to grow their own feed supplies in 1988.

Any county designated to receive cost-sharing assistance under the Emergency Feed Program is automatically eligible for the Emergency Feed Assistance Program. As of July 1, 1988, 314 counties in 20 states have been approved for either emergency program. Only six counties in three states of the region, though, have received approval for enrollment; these counties are listed on page 4. Counties that have been rejected for assistance may reapply. Documenting a 40 percent minimum loss of yield at this stage of the crop year as a qualification for either program is proving difficult for many counties.

According to a recent report by CRS (June 29, 1988 Order # IB88073), rising feed prices caused by the drought make the EFAP the more attractive program for distressed farmers since it allows them to pay 75 percent of a fixed, relatively low loan rate for feed, compared to paying 50 percent of a rising market price for grain under the Emergency Feed Program.

Haying and Grazing

To further ensure adequate supplies of feed for livestock in drought areas, USDA can permit haying and grazing on acreage idled under the federal conservation and reduction programs. As of June 27, 638 counties in ten states in the region have been approved for enrollment in emergency haying and grazing programs. Specifically:

- Producers in designated counties are allowed to cut hay and graze livestock on land idled under the Acreage Reduction Program (ARP), the paid land diversion program, and the O/92 program. USDA has authorized haying and grazing on ARP land for five consecutive months between April 1 and October 31, a period during which such activity is normally prohibited.

- Producers located in any county approved to hay or graze livestock on idled cropland under the Acreage Conservation Reserve (ACR) program are automatically eligible to hay land idled under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). However, a producer's annual payment will be reduced by 25 percent for each acre hayed, and haying on CRP land is limited to a 30-day period. In addition, grazing livestock has not yet been permitted on CRP land.
- Producers in approved counties may now sell their hay from any land idled under the ACR, CRP or Conservation Use programs. As of July 1, USDA has approved 48 counties in 13 states.
- USDA is selling hay raised on farmland that has been forfeited to the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) at a discount rate.
- Designated land reserved by the Department of Interior for waterfowl nesting will be available on specified dates for haying under the Waterbank Haying Program.

Other Assistance

- HayNet - USDA has established a centralized data bank in coordination with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture to link producers in need of hay with areas that have surplus hay. Information from state agriculture departments and extension services around the country is sent to USDA in Washington D.C., compiled and made available to states, which can access the information electronically. HayNet supplements the state hay hotlines; listed in Appendix B.
- National Drought Hotline - USDA has set up a hotline number to answer questions on any drought assistance program: 1-800-541-3375. The local hotline number in Washington, D.C. is 447-8455.

The federal government has at its disposal several other programs which can be implemented if the Secretary of Agriculture determines that additional emergency feed assistance is needed.

Crop Conditions

Different crops possess different tolerance levels to drought, which makes the severity of the drought a relative matter. Fruit trees, for instance, are less susceptible to drought in the short term because of their deeply established roots. However, a number of fruit producers have already claimed that this year's drought will effect 1989 crop production as well as 1988 production. Feed grain crops, on the other hand, possess less tolerance to the drought and actually become vulnerable to a host of other dangers, specifically pests. Still, with adequate rain at the proper stages of growth, the Midwest may yet produce a crop 80 to 85 percent of normal yield.

Yields for small grains such as oats, barley and rye will be more severely affected than crops that have a higher tolerance to drought, including soybeans and grain sorghum. In some areas, quality and quantity will be so poor that an increased percentage of the crop will be used for feed. Vegetables, however,

because of their high intolerance, are frequently irrigated or have back-up irrigation available. For a detailed description of crop conditions in the region, see Table 1 and Appendix A.

Federal Assistant Programs for Crops

USDA is using several programs to compensate farmers for crop losses resulting from the 1988 drought. Listed below are the major programs available to producers in counties approved for receiving assistance. Regardless of whether a county is approved for a given federal disaster relief program, farmers must first apply for program benefits with the state Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) in their county.

- 0/92 Program - Farmers in designated counties who signed up in the regular Acreage Conservation Reserve set-aside program for feed grains or wheat but could not plant because of the drought will be eligible for the 0/92 program, even though the March 11 deadline has passed. Under the 0/92 program, producers may place all of their permitted acreage in conserving use (i.e., planting zero crop acres) and still receive 92 percent of the deficiency payments they would have received if they had planted all of their permitted crop acres. As of July 1, 54 counties in 13 states had been approved for the 0/92 drought program. The states and counties in the region eligible for reopening 0/92 are listed below.
- Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) - Crop insurance is available to those farmers who had enrolled in the program prior to the 1988 drought. Insurance payments are based on an individual farmer's losses, rather than whether the farmer is located in a county approved for receiving drought assistance. Legislative proposals to allow farmers to enroll retroactively in the program (after deadlines have expired) are meeting opposition at USDA. Furthermore, crop insurance is not available for all commodities in all areas.
- Farmers Home Administration Emergency Loans (FmHA) - Farmers located in counties approved for receiving drought relief are eligible for low-interest emergency disaster (EM) loans from FmHa, provided they are family farmers who have incurred at least 30 percent production loss, and have purchased crop insurance where available for their commodities in their area. In addition, they must be unable to get credit from a commercial lender, but still show the capacity to repay the loan.

EFP and EFAP, and 0/92 Program Enrollment in the Region

As of July 1, the following states and counties in the Northeast-Midwest region have been approved for receiving assistance under the Emergency Feed Program (cost-sharing) or the Emergency Feed Assistance Program (grain sales at 75 percent of loan rate):

Minnesota - Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard.

Ohio - Clairmont and Highland.

Wisconsin - Kewaunee.

As of July 1, the following states and counties in the Northeast-Midwest region have been approved for enrollment in the 0/92 Disaster Program:

Michigan - Cass, Clinton, Isabella, and Lenawee.

Ohio - Auglize, Brown, Crawford, Pike, and Wood.

Wisconsin - Washburn (four counties were rejected).

State Contacts for Further Information

For the most up-to-date information on programs and other assistance in a state, individuals should call the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), listed under USDA, in their county. As of July 5, seven of the 18 states in the region have established a hay hotline (listed in Appendix B). For those states without hay hotlines, farmers can call their state agriculture departments for the most current information on available hay.

Questions relating to crop and livestock conditions and weather should be directed to the state agriculture statistics offices of the National Agriculture Statistics Service. Phone numbers for these offices also are listed in Appendix B.

Table 1
Crop and Pasture Conditions for Selected States¹
For the week ended July 3, 1988
(in percent)

State	Very Poor		Poor		Fair		Good		Excellent	
	7/3	6/26	7/3	6/26	7/3	6/26	7/3	6/26	7/3	6/26
Illinois										
Corn	2	1	20	18	60	62	18	19	0	0
Soybeans	2	2	14	20	69	61	15	17	0	0
Winter Wheat	na	0	na	3	na	41	na	51	na	5
Oats	2	3	24	32	65	54	9	11	0	0
Sorghum	0	0	27	28	66	65	7	7	0	0
Alfalfa Hay	7	5	36	35	51	52	6	8	0	0
Pasture	39	33	48	53	13	14	0	0	0	0
Indiana										
Corn	11	7	54	48	35	43	0	2	0	0
Soybeans	6	6	40	36	51	56	3	2	0	0
Winter Wheat	2	4	9	28	58	58	28	9	3	1
Pasture	64	59	33	39	3	2	0	0	0	0
Iowa										
Corn	2	2	15	19	59	57	22	21	2	1
Soybeans	0	0	12	16	56	56	28	28	4	0
Oats	12	8	45	55	38	31	5	6	0	0
Hay	22	25	46	46	29	25	3	4	0	0
Pasture	56	59	35	34	9	6	0	1	0	0
Maryland										
Corn	0	na	60	na	40	na	0	na	0	na
Tobacco	0	na	30	na	70	na	0	na	0	na
Oats	na	0	na	0	na	30	na	70	na	0
Michigan										
Corn	15	10	30	25	25	35	17	25	3	5
Soybeans	15	12	25	25	35	35	22	25	3	3
Winter Wheat	10	7	25	25	45	45	20	20	0	3
Oats	30	20	35	40	30	30	5	10	0	0
Hay	25	20	35	40	30	30	10	10	0	0
Pasture	45	35	37	45	15	17	3	3	0	0
Minnesota										
Corn	11	12	19	25	60	51	10	12	0	0
Soybeans	7	5	17	17	59	63	16	13	1	2
Spring Wheat	33	35	33	50	34	15	0	0	0	0

Table 1 (continued)
Crop and Pasture Conditions for Selected States
For the week ended July 3, 1988
(in percent)

State	Very Poor		Poor		Fair		Good		Excellent	
	7/3	6/26	7/3	6/26	7/3	6/26	7/3	6/26	7/3	6/26
Ohio										
Corn	14	11	35	30	42	43	8	16	1	0
Soybeans	15	13	31	30	42	39	11	17	1	1
Winter Wheat	3	5	22	28	43	49	29	18	3	0
Oats	16	0	37	50	37	50	10	0	0	0
Hay	28	15	39	41	27	37	6	7	0	0
Pasture	49	33	32	48	16	16	3	3	0	0
Sugar beets	14	na	31	na	43	na	11	na	1	na
Tobacco	37	na	30	na	27	na	6	na	0	na
Pennsylvania										
Corn	2	3	6	15	30	40	54	34	8	8
Soybeans	5	4	18	25	46	36	29	32	2	3
Winter Wheat	1	0	3	5	23	20	54	59	19	16
Oats	2	1	6	7	30	33	54	44	8	15
Hay	na	0	na	0	na	26	na	74	na	0
Apples	0	0	9	8	73	75	18	17	0	0
Peaches	0	0	20	9	70	83	10	9	0	0
Pasture	0	0	86	61	11	32	3	7	0	0
Wisconsin										
Corn	5	4	23	24	54	66	18	6	0	0
General	13	12	47	45	35	43	5	0	0	0

¹ The state statistics offices of the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) of the USDA base crop condition ratings on surveys and questionnaires mailed around the state to crop reporters, knowledgeable in the history and conditions of local crops. All crop conditions tabulated by the state statistics offices are included here. Many states do not publish crop conditions in percentages but simply in a descriptive manner. Condition ratings are comprised of overall crop assessments (crops harvested and crops still in the field).

SOURCE: USDA, Crop Progress & Conditions Report for the week ended July 3, 1988 (Washington, D.C.).

Table 2
Major Commodity Production in the Northeast-Midwest
(based on 1986 cash receipts)

Region and State	State Rank in Nation	Individual Commodities as percent of:	
		State Total	U.S. Total
New England			
Connecticut			
Cattle/calves	44	5.2	0.07
Dairy products	38	21.9	0.46
Hay		1.1	0.19
Tobacco	9	6.0	1.17
Maine			
Cattle/calves	43	6.3	0.08
Dairy products	36	23.5	0.48
Hay		1.6	0.28
Oats		0.7	1.30
Massachusetts			
Cattle/calves		3.0	0.04
Dairy products	39	18.0	0.43
Hay		1.3	0.26
Tobacco		1.7	0.36
New Hampshire			
Cattle/calves	47	9.2	0.03
Dairy products	42	45.0	0.28
Hay		2.4	0.12
Rhode Island			
Dairy products	50	7.6	0.03
Vermont			
Cattle/calves	41	8.9	0.12
Dairy products	14	79.7	1.78
Hay	34	2.5	0.46
Mid-Atlantic			
Delaware			
Barley	35	0.7	0.44
Broilers		68.2	5.22
Corn	27	4.5	0.18
Dairy products	47	3.6	0.10
Hay		0.2	0.04
Soybeans	24	5.6	0.32
Wheat		0.7	0.07

Table 2 (continued)
Major Commodity Production in the Northeast-Midwest
(based on 1986 cash receipts)

Region and State	State Rank in Nation	Individual Commodities as percent of:	
		State Total	U.S. Total
Maryland			
Barley		0.5	0.73
Broilers		35.9	6.28
Cattle/calves	39	5.7	0.23
Corn	39	4.3	0.39
Dairy products	21	17.7	1.18
Hay		1.0	0.53
Soybeans	22	4.4	0.57
Tobacco	7	3.2	1.95
Wheat		1.2	0.28
New Jersey			
Barley		0.3	0.20
Cattle/calves		2.2	0.04
Corn		2.8	0.12
Dairy products	41	10.8	0.35
Hay		2.5	0.67
Soybeans		3.0	0.19
Wheat		0.5	0.06
New York			
Cattle/calves	36	5.8	0.51
Corn	20	2.8	0.54
Dairy products	3	57.5	8.17
Ducks		0.5	100.00
Hay	20	1.2	1.41
Oats		0.2	2.86
Soybeans		0.1	0.03
Wheat		0.6	0.32
Pennsylvania			
Barley		0.1	0.34
Broilers		1.4	2.02
Cattle/calves	26	9.6	1.05
Corn		3.4	0.82
Dairy products	4	41.6	7.39
Hay	6	2.8	4.08
Oats		0.2	3.06
Soybeans		0.8	0.28
Tobacco		0.6	0.96
Wheat		0.6	0.38

Table 2 (continued)
Major Commodity Production in the Northeast-Midwest
(based on 1986 cash receipts)

Region and State	State Rank in Nation	Individual Commodities as percent of:	
		State Total	U.S. Total
Midwest			
Illinois			
Cattle/calves	11	10.8	2.56
Corn	1	39.8	20.60
Dairy products	13	5.0	1.93
Hay		0.5	1.59
Hogs	2	14.7	10.39
Oats		0.1	2.22
Sorghum grain	8	0.4	2.20
Soybeans	1	24.9	18.70
Wheat	15	1.2	1.63
Indiana			
Cattle/calves	25	7.6	1.07
Corn	4	29.4	9.10
Dairy products	15	7.3	1.69
Hay		0.5	0.91
Hogs	3	19.0	8.03
Oats		0.1	1.39
Soybeans	4	18.8	8.44
Tobacco		0.4	0.82
Wheat	16	1.6	1.28
Iowa			
Cattle/calves	5	18.9	5.94
Corn	2	27.2	18.60
Dairy products	10	4.9	2.52
Hay		0.5	2.17
Hogs	1	28.9	27.10
Oats		0.2	10.98
Soybeans	2	16.5	16.43
Wheat		0.1	0.11
Michigan			
Barley		0.1	0.24
Cattle/calves	30	8.7	0.80
Corn	7	15.0	3.02
Dairy products	6	25.2	3.77
Hay		2.3	2.81
Oats		0.4	5.77
Soybeans	17	5.2	1.51
Sugar beets	5	2.5	7.89
Wheat	12	2.6	1.36

Table 2 (continued)
Major Commodity Production in the Northeast-Midwest
(based on 1986 cash receipts)

Region and State	State Rank in Nation	Individual Commodities as percent of:	
		State Total	U.S. Total
Minnesota			
Barley	4	1.4	9.88
Cattle/calves	8	15.4	3.23
Corn	5	16.5	7.55
Dairy products		20.2	6.88
Hay	10	1.1	3.23
Hogs	4	12.4	7.73
Oats		0.4	14.02
Rye		0.1	11.70
Soybeans	5	12.2	8.09
Sugar beets	1	3.1	21.77
Wheat	4	5.4	6.31
Ohio			
Cattle/calves	22	9.5	1.19
Corn	6	21.9	5.95
Dairy products	7	17.0	3.44
Hay		1.2	2.06
Hogs	8	9.8	3.65
Oats		0.2	4.15
Soybeans	6	19.6	7.72
Sugar beets		0.2	1.00
Tobacco		0.7	1.31
Wheat		3.0	2.10
Wisconsin			
Barley		0.0	0.29
Cattle/calves	12	12.6	2.20
Corn	9	6.8	2.59
Dairy products	1	59.5	16.89
Hay		1.2	2.86
Oats		0.2	5.23
Soybeans		0.9	0.48
Tobacco	12	0.4	0.94
Wheat		0.4	0.35

SOURCE: Economic Indicators of the Farm Sector: State Financial Summary, 1986. USDA, Agriculture and Rural Economy Division, ERS, ECIFS 6-4.

Appendix A
Crop and Livestock Conditions by State
(where available)
For the week ended July 3, 1988

Delaware

- First and second hay cuttings were below normal.
- Other crop conditions: corn, fair; soybeans, fair.
- Topsoil moisture: rated 100% very short.
- Rainfall: 2 to 4 inches below normal.
- Overall, the state's conditions are rated fair to good.

Illinois

- Hay is in good supply but lower quality.
- 93% of the winter wheat crop harvested, compared to 81% in 1987.
- Other crop conditions: 32% of oats are ripe, compared with an 8% five-year state average; average height of corn crop is 52 inches, compared to a 49-inch five-year state average; 25% of soybean crop is blooming, compared to 23% five-year average.
- Topsoil moisture: rated 100% short.

Indiana

- Hay and forage situation seriously deteriorating.
- 70% of winter wheat harvested, compared to 15% at this time in 1987.
- Average height of corn is 39 inches, four inches below the five-year average, with severe stress in some areas.
- Supplemental feeding of livestock is necessary in many areas.
- Topsoil moisture: rated 100% short.

Iowa

- Second hay cut was of very low yield.
- Supplemental hay feedings for livestock: 23% heavy, 44% moderate, 32% light, and 1% not receiving supplemental feeding.
- Hay availability for farmers is rated: 31% in short supply, 65% adequate, 4% with surplus.
- Other crop conditions: winter wheat is mostly fair to poor; corn shows good growth; soybeans show signs of stress.
- Dairy cows do not seem to be experiencing problems yet.
- Topsoil moisture: rated 90% short, 10% adequate.

Maryland

- Cost of production for broiler producers beginning to increase due to more expensive feed grains.
- Other crop ratings: tobacco, fair; winter wheat harvest, average; barley harvest, good.
- 65% of winter wheat harvested and 95% of barley harvested.
- Topsoil moisture: rated 90% very short, 10% short.

Appendix A (continued)
Crop and Livestock Conditions by State

Michigan

- Second cutting is very light or virtually non-existent.
- 1% of winter wheat harvested.
- Sugar beets are rated good but need rain to maintain good condition.
- Hay and forage are coming into short supply.

Minnesota

- First cut of hay was 50-70% of normal cut.
- Pasture conditions are 62% of normal cut.
- Spring wheat in some areas is a total loss and is being plowed down.
- Corn and soybeans in light soils with no irrigation have already had reduced yields. Record high temperatures this week could be the final blow to any chance of a comeback.
- Topsoil moisture: 75% very short, 22% short, 3% adequate.

New Jersey

- First hay cutting was good, second was below normal.
- Pasture conditions are the highest in the country, although there has been little recent growth.
- Soybeans are doing well but are starting to show some stress.
- Rainfall: adequate through early June, but has fallen off since.

New York

- Vegetables are rated fair to good with irrigation underway where possible, although increased water is necessary. Some vegetables are showing signs of stress.
- Other crop ratings: hay, fair to good; pasture, fair to poor; fruits, good.
- Topsoil moisture: rated very short to adequate.
- Rainfall: deficit of one-tenth to three and one-half inches for last five weeks.

Ohio

- Hay is coming in from out of the state (Virginia).
- Soybean crop loss estimates reach as high as 60% in some areas.
- 38% of the winter wheat crop harvested.

Pennsylvania

- First hay cutting was decent but regrowth has been inhibited.
- Corn height is lagging six inches behind five-year average.
- Other crop conditions: wheat, barley, and to a larger extent oats are moving well to maturity.
- Topsoil moisture: rated 100% short.
- Rainfall: from three and one-half to seven inches below normal levels from April 1, 1988.

Appendix A (continued)
Crop and Livestock Conditions by State

Wisconsin

- First cut of hay was 60% of normal cut; second cut of hay was 10% of normal cut. Hay supplies are estimated to last two to three months.
- Pastures are at 25% of normal conditions.
- Cows are relying on supplemental feedings to a greater extent than normal.
- Other crop conditions: barley, very poor to poor; oats, short and yields will be very light.
- Topsoil moisture: rated 99% short, 1% adequate.
- Rainfall: 50% of normal levels statewide.

New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire
Rhode Island and Vermont)

- First hay cut was rated good, but second is expected to be poor.
- All crops good except: corn, fair to good; Rhode Island potatoes, fair to good; Maine oats, good to excellent.
- Grazing is available but rated adequate to very short.

SOURCE: USDA, Crop Progress and Conditions Report for the week ended July 3, 1988 (Washington, D.C.) and conversations with officials of state agriculture statistics offices of the National Agriculture Statistics Service.

Appendix B
Federal, Congressional, and State Contacts

State and State Statistics Office Location	Hay Hotline/ Contact Person	State Agriculture Statistics Office
Delaware, Annapolis MD		301-841-5740
Illinois, Springfield	1-800-541-9561	217-492-4295
Indiana, Lafayette	317-494-4800 Keith Johnson	317-494-8371
Iowa, Des Moines	1-800-383-5079	515-284-4340
Maryland, Annapolis		301-841-5740
Michigan, Lansing		517-377-1831
Minnesota, St. Paul	1-800-652-9747	612-296-2230
New Jersey, Trenton		609-292-6385
New York, Albany	518-457-3485 Phillip Schweppenhauser	518-457-5570
Ohio, Columbus	1-800-686-7246	614-469-5590
Pennsylvania, Harrisburg		717-787-3904
Wisconsin, Madison	1-800-362-3020	608-264-5317
New England, Concord NH (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)		603-224-9639
Congressional Drought Task Force Hotline	224-2587	
USDA Drought Hotline	1-800-541-3375 (local 447-8455)	
USDA Weather Information	447-2545	